

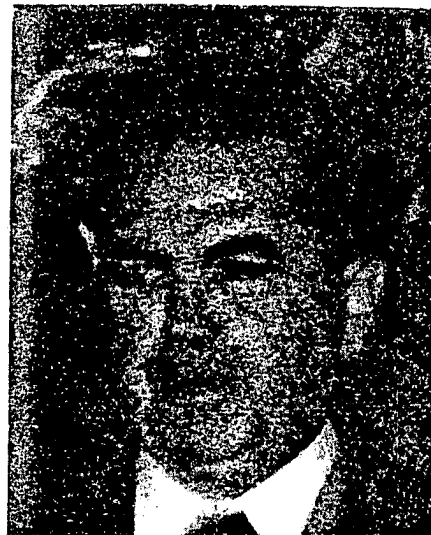
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Constantin DASCALESCU  
(Phonetic: duhskuhLESSkoo)

ROMANIA

Prime Minister (since May 1982)

Addressed as:  
Mr. Prime Minister



Constantin Dascalescu became Prime Minister during sweeping leadership changes resulting from Romania's extensive and worsening economic problems. His primary duty in the premiership is to administer the economic policies of President Nicolae Ceausescu. Although Dascalescu lacks a strong economics background, he has solid credentials as an administrator. He is a loyal Romanian Communist Party (PCR) functionary who, within the past several years, has become one of the most powerful men in the party. Named to the PCR Secretariat in 1976, he took over the influential post of party secretary for organization affairs two years later. In that position he worked with the President's wife, Elena, who supervises PCR cadre affairs, and he had authority over sensitive party organizational and personnel matters. His career and status in the PCR hierarchy advanced after he received that assignment. Although he left the PCR Secretariat upon becoming Prime Minister, he retains two other important party posts--he is a member of the PCR Political Executive Committee and of its elite Permanent Bureau, memberships he gained in 1978 and 1979, respectively. [redacted]

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Dascalescu has a reputation for being a tough administrator. He spent nearly 20 years as a provincial PCR secretary, the last nine of them (1965-74) as first secretary for Galati county. During 1974-76 he was chief of the PCR's Central Committee Section for Organization Affairs. His Secretariat responsibilities during 1976-78 included agriculture. He gained some economic experience during that time, while serving concurrently as chairman of the National Union of Agriculture Production Cooperatives. [redacted]

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Dascalescu, 62, does not speak English. He has traveled to Western Europe four times with party delegations. [redacted]

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